



Department of Justice

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FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
CONDUCT MAJOR SWEEP OF ORLANDO AREA DRUG DEALERS
USING THE U.S. MAIL TO SMUGGLE COCAINE FROM PUERTO RICO

Orlando, FL - Acting U.S. Attorney James R. Klindt, Assistant Special Agent in Charge Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Stephen Collins, and U.S. Postal Inspector in Charge Henry Gutierrez, along with agency representatives from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation, the Orlando Police Department, the Florida Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Osceola County Investigative Bureau, today announced the arrest of 32 individuals who are charged in a federal complaint with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and distribution of cocaine. If convicted, each defendant faces a minimum mandatory ten years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment.

Early this morning more than 100 law enforcement officers began executing five search warrants and locating and arresting the 33 individuals charged in the complaint. The search warrants were executed at the following locations:

- 1) **2760 Michigan Ave., Suite 5, Kissimmee**, which is the business of Miguel Antonio Montes, a/k/a "Tony Montana"
- 2) **7324 Windham Harbour Avenue, Orlando**, which is the residence of Miguel Antonio Montes, a/k/a "Tony Montana"
- 3) **6090 Tivoli Garden Boulevard, Orlando**, which is the residence of Luis J. Gonzalez

- 4) **732 North Dean Road, Orlando**, which is the residence of Ricardo Ortiz
- 5) **6130 Curry Ford Road, Apt 158, Orlando**, which is the residence of Georliana Cortijo

According to the arrest affidavit, the investigation leading to the criminal complaint began in August of 2006 when agents began looking into a Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) that used the U.S. mail to ship kilograms of cocaine from Puerto Rico to the Orlando area. In some instances the shipper mailed one to three kilos at a time to a recipient who had agreed to accept the drugs. The senders also tried to conceal the recipients' true identities by addressing the packages to fictitious names. The parcels were sent to various locations including private residences, businesses and apartments.

The complaint alleges that the DTO recruited individuals who were paid small sums of money, typically \$100 to \$1,000, to accept packages containing the drugs. These recipients were instructed to contact a member of the DTO by telephone and then another member of the DTO would pick up the parcel containing the cocaine. In some cases, the drugs were shipped to an unwitting person's location or an unoccupied location. In those instances, the actual intended recipient waited nearby during the time of delivery, posed as the addressee and accepted delivery.

Investigators estimate the DTO was responsible for the shipment of 40-50 kilos of cocaine weekly beginning as far back as November of 2005.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Florida Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution and the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Osceola County Investigative Bureau, the Orlando Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Sarasota Police Department, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives assisted in the investigation. This matter is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bruce Ambrose.

A complaint is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until proven guilty.

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